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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/728,685	12/05/2003	Christopher W. Dix	M-15299 US	9055

7590 02/07/2006
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, MATTHEW VAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2838

DATE MAILED: 02/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/728,685

Applicant(s)

DIX, CHRISTOPHER W.

Examiner

MATTHEW V. NGUYEN

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 16-24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/5/03.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

1. Applicant's election of Group I, claims 1-14, in the reply filed on 11/22/05 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

2. The disclosure should be carefully reviewed and ensure that any and all grammatical, idiomatic, and spelling or other minor errors are corrected.

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Plankensteiner et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,479,975).

With regard to claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 9, Plankensteiner et al. (i.e., Fig. 4) shows an electronic circuit comprising a first transistor (M_{OUT}) connecting an output terminal of the power supply to a load (R_{LOAD}), a second transistor (M_{SENSE}) connecting a sense terminal of the power supply to the load, a controller (CONTROL) providing an output signal (312) for controlling the first and second transistors, switching them on to apply power from the power supply to the load and sensing the load to the power supply at about the same time, the first and second transistors being MOSFETs, and the load and power supply being part of the circuit.

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4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3, 8 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plankensteiner et al. in view of Terrien (U.S. Pat. No. 6,693,410).

With regard to claims 3, 8 and 10-13, Plankensteiner et al. shows an electronic circuit comprising all the claimed subject matter as discussed in subparagraph 3 above, except for the controller varying the ramp rate of the output signal, and first and second resistors being arranged between control terminals of the first and second transistors, respectively, and the controller.

Terrien (i.e., 1) discloses a controlling circuit in which the ramp rate is varying (col. 3, line 45-60), and every transistor in the circuit being connected to a resistor at its control terminal.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at time the invention was made to utilize the controller varying the ramp rate of the output signal, and a resistor connected at the control terminal of each transistor in the circuit of Terrien into that of Plankensteiner et al. for the purpose of obtaining a better and more stable control signal to the switching transistors.

5. Claims 4, 5, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Plankensteiner et al.

With regard to claims 4, 5, 14 and 15, Plankensteiner et al. shows an electronic circuit comprising all the claimed subject matter as discussed in subparagraph 3 above, except for third and fourth transistors connected respectively to the output terminal and the sense terminal of a second power supply to a second load and a controller for providing control signal to the third and fourth resistors.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have third and fourth transistors connected respectively to the output terminal and the sense terminal of a second power supply to a second load and a controller for providing control signal to the third and fourth resistors into the circuit of Plankensteiner et al., since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kalpakjian et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,175,221), Nishimaki (U.S. Pat. No. 6,870,354), Yoshida et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,879,502) also disclose electronic circuits each of which comprises substantial elements as recited in claims of the instant application.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew V. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2081.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2800.

Matthew V. Nguyen
MATTHEW V. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER